



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release



Mirage City Cinema, 2013, a cinema-architecture space by Apichatpong Weerasethakul and Ole Scheeren, commissioned by Sharjah Art Foundation, image courtesy of Sharjah Art Foundation

THE IMPORTANCE OF SHORT FILM
A Sharjah Biennial 11 Film Programme Panel Discussion
MAY 3
8.45 P.M.
MIRAGE CITY CINEMA, MAUROUTH SQUARE
SHARJAH

SHARJAH BIENNIAL 11
Re:emerge
Towards a New Cultural Cartography
March 13 – May 13, 2013
Sharjah, UAE

Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF) announces a Panel Discussion in Arabic, on the importance of short films organised as part of Sharjah Biennial 11 Film Programme on Friday, May 3rd, 2013 at 8:45 pm. The panel discussion will take place at Mirage City Cinema, and will be moderated by Assistant Professor of Film and Literature **Dr. Nezar Ajaj Anadry**, with poet and film director **Nujoom Al Ghanem**, freelance director **Nizar Sfair**, and filmmaker **Amal Al Agroobi**. Following the panel discussion are film screenings programmed by **Jean Pierre-Rehm** and **Tilda Swinton**.

The topic of the panel discussion is the short film genre, which is as old as the art of cinematography, yet for many it is considered as a vital training ground for budding filmmakers and often attracts a young and enthusiastic audience. From documentary to animation, narrative to experimental, the abbreviated form is no longer just for the novice; the repertoire of professional filmmakers often includes short films.

Why make short films? Why are they an important part of cinema, storytelling, and culture? What is the relationship between short films and reality and how do they affect the viewer? These are some of the questions and issues that will be addressed by the speakers at this event.

Curated by Thai filmmaker **Apichatpong Weerasethakul**, the Sharjah Biennial 11 Film Programme features programming by leading figures in the film industry, including **Steve Anker**, Dean of the School of Film/Video at California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), Los Angeles; **Khavn De La Cruz**, poet, pianist, filmmaker, Mondomanila, the Philippines; **Ali Jaafar**, Executive Director, Independent Film Division, Quinta Communications, London; **Mehelli Modi**, Founder of Second Run DVD, London; **Alcino Leite Neto**, editor, Sao Paulo; **Jean-Pierre Rehm**, theorist, Festival Director, FIDMarseille, Paris; **Tilda Swinton**, Scotland; and **Apichatpong Weerasethakul**, film director/ producer, Chiang Mai, Thailand. The programme includes evening screenings every weekend in an outdoor cinema in SAF's new art spaces of commissioned films, existing productions, and curated film programmes.

Biographies

Dr. Nezar Ajaj Anadry is Assistant Professor of Film and Literature at Zayed University, College of Humanities and Sustainability Sciences, Abu Dhabi. Dr. Anadry earned his Ph.D in Comparative Literature from UCLA, with a focus on the representation of Arab history in contemporary world film and literature. He previously worked in theatre and film productions and curated several film festivals and series. Most recently, Anadry produced and acted in the short film *Mirage*, directed by Yann Baptist Seweryn.

Nujoom Al Ghanem is both a poet and film director. She has published eight poetry collections the first of which was *Paradise Evening*. She has also produced and directed six films, including the award winning documentary *Al Mureed*, which was exhibited at the Fifth Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF). Al Ghanem has also directed three short films: her most recent *Salma's Dinner* (2011) was screened at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF).

Nizar Sfair is a freelance director in Dubai. Nizar's short films have been honoured at numerous festivals. His debut short, *NTSC* (2001), received a special jury prize at the European Film Festival in Beirut. *Tooth of Hope* won Abu Dhabi Film Commission's script competition. He is currently working on his feature film *The Occurrences (Al Hawadeth)*. Nizar Sfair's short film *The Memorious* is currently on view as part of Sharjah Biennial 11 Film Programme.

Amal Al Agroobi spent years living in different countries around the world before returning to the UAE in 2013 when she set up *ALAGROOBI Production* and won the award for 'Best Up and Coming Filmmaker of 2013' at the Digital Studio Awards in Dubai. After the success of her film 'Half Emirati', Amal is already in production with her feature documentary 'The Brain That Sings'.

About Sharjah Biennial 11 (SB11)

For Sharjah Biennial 11, Hasegawa has selected more than 100 artists, architects, filmmakers, musicians and performers whose artworks and practices resonate with strands of the curatorial theme: the complexity and diversity of cultures and societies; spatial and political relations; notions of new forms of contact, dialogue, and exchange; and production through art and architectural practices of new ways of knowing, thinking, and feeling. With more than 35 new commissions, SB11 unfolds in sites across the city and marked the inauguration of SAF's five new art spaces. SB11 film screenings take place in Mirage City Cinema every weekend, and an extensive programme of music and performances continue, with performances by Tarek Atoui with Al Amal School for the Deaf, Hasan Hujairi as part of the sound composition *Within*, and German-Iraqi chamber music ensemble *Lagash*.

About Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF)

Sharjah Art Foundation brings a broad range of contemporary art and cultural programmes to the communities of Sharjah, the UAE and the region. Since 2009 SAF has built on the history of cultural collaboration and exchange that began with the first Sharjah Biennial in 1993. Working with local and international partners, we create opportunities for artists and artistic production through our core initiatives that include the Sharjah Biennial, the annual March Meeting, residencies, production grants, commissions, exhibitions, research, publications and a growing collection. Our education and public programmes focus on building recognition of the central role art can play in the life of a community by promoting public learning and a participatory approach to art. All our events are free and open to the public. Sharjah Art Foundation is funded by the Department of Culture and Information, Government of Sharjah.

For more information on SAF and its programmes, visit <http://www.sharjahart.org>

MEDIA CONTACT:

Sharjah Art Foundation

Maitha Al Jassim

Public & Media Relations Officer

Tel: +971-6-544-4113, ext. 25

E: maitha@sharjahart.org

t +971 6 544 4113 | f +971 6 544 7797 | PO Box 19989 Sharjah, UAE
website | facebook | twitter | google | map